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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 2152

Examiner:

Serial No.: 09/923,769

Filed: August 6, 2001

In re Application of: Howard Abrams, et al.

For: HYBRID COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEREST MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
AND METHOD

*Certificate of Mailing*

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to Director of Patents Box Missing Parts, Washington, D.C. 20231 on 03-18-02. Signed Gerry Ubau  
Gerry Ubau

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Director of Patents  
Box Amendment  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Dear Sir,

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Please cancel claims 1-36, 46-51, 56-57 and 67-103, without prejudice, and amend the claims as follows:

39. The software program of Claim 37, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the client computer to perform operations of:

    sending dynamic interest update information to the server; and

    negotiating an updated interest expression based at least in part on said dynamic interest update information, and on available bandwidth and network traffic.

42. The software program of Claim 38, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the client computer to perform an operation of receiving dynamic updates relating to said interesting other entities.

43. The software program of Claim 38, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the client computer to perform an operation of receiving interesting generalized information from said uninteresting other entities.

44. The software program of Claim 38, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the client computer to perform an operation of enabling, based on said interest expression, transmission to the client of now interesting entities, who were previously uninteresting, based on updated information relating to said previously uninteresting entities.

45. The software program of Claim 38, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the client computer to perform an operation of enabling, based on said interest expression, filtering of now uninteresting other entities, who were previously interesting, based on updated information relating to said previously interesting other entities.

60. The software program of Claim 58, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the server computer to perform operations of:  
receiving dynamic interest update information from the client; and

negotiating an updated interest expression based at least in part on said dynamic interest update information, and on available bandwidth and network traffic.

63. The software program of Claim 58, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the server computer to perform an operation of permitting transmission of dynamic updates to said client relating to said interesting other entities.

64. The software program of Claim 58, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the server computer to perform an operation of permitting transmission of interesting generalized information to said client from said uninteresting other entities.

65. The software program of Claim 58, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the server computer to perform an operation of permitting, based on said interest expression, transmission to the client of now interesting entities, who were previously uninteresting, based on updated information relating to said previously uninteresting other entities.

66. The software program of Claim 58, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the server computer to perform an operation of permitting, based on said interest expression, filtering of now uninteresting entities, who were previously interesting, based on updated information relating to said previously interesting other entities.

At Page 4:

Figs. 4a-4b illustrate in block form a further method relating to a server, peer-to-peer, nodal client or hybrid network software program according to a preferred embodiment.

At Page 13, paragraph 1:

The server balances the user's interests in generating the interest expression with network and/or the available bandwidth to the user and/or on system traffic, and also preferably on an understanding of what a desired amount of information may be for the user, given a user's limited ability to deal with information or other users in a limited amount of time. Thus, if the user has available a smaller bandwidth, then the user's interest expression is more limited. Likewise, if system traffic is high, then the user's interest expression will be more limited, as well. A subject user may also express a desired size of the interest expression, such as how much information or how many other users the subject user is interested in, and some weight may be accorded this input of the subject user. The subject user may indicate groups of entities that may be interest, wherein the server would check to see if those entities in fact match the interest expression of the user. This is described in more detail at Figs. 4a-4b.

At Page 16, paragraph 3:

Figs. 4a-4b illustrate in block form a further method relating to a server, peer-to-peer, nodal client, one-to-many multicast or hybrid network software program according to a preferred embodiment. At operation O51, information relating to an entity "A" is read which may be related to the subject user discussed above with respect to Fig. 3. Then, at operation O52, it is determined which other zones entity A has indicated an interest in or which have been otherwise flagged as being potentially or actually interesting to entity A. Entity A may be interested in one or more zones.

Respectfully submitted,  
SIERRA PATENT GROUP, LTD.

Dated: 3-18-02

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39. (Amended) The software program of [any of Claims 37 or 38] Claim 37, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the client computer to perform operations of:

sending dynamic interest update information to the server; and  
negotiating an updated interest expression based at least in part on said dynamic interest update information, and on available bandwidth and network traffic.

42. (Amended) The software program of [any of Claims 38 or 39] Claim 38, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the client computer to perform an operation of receiving dynamic updates relating to said interesting other entities.

43. (Amended) The software program of [any of Claims 38 or 39] Claim 38, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the client computer to perform an operation of receiving interesting generalized information from said uninteresting other entities.

44. (Amended) The software program of [any of Claims 38 or 39] Claim 38, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the client computer to perform an operation of enabling, based on said interest expression, transmission to the client of now interesting entities, who were previously uninteresting, based on updated information relating to said previously uninteresting entities.

45. (Amended) The software program of [any of Claims 38 or 39] Claim 38, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the client computer to perform an

operation of enabling, based on said interest expression, filtering of now uninteresting other entities, who were previously interesting, based on updated information relating to said previously interesting other entities.

60. (Amended) The software program of [any of Claims 58 or 59] Claim 58, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the server computer to perform operations of:

receiving dynamic interest update information from the client; and

negotiating an updated interest expression based at least in part on said dynamic interest update information, and on available bandwidth and network traffic.

63. (Amended) The software program of [any of Claims 58 or 59] Claim 58, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the server computer to perform an operation of permitting transmission of dynamic updates to said client relating to said interesting other entities.

64. (Amended) The software program of [any of Claims 58 or 59] Claim 58, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the server computer to perform an operation of permitting transmission of interesting generalized information to said client from said uninteresting other entities.

65. (Amended) The software program of [any of Claims 58 or 59] Claim 58, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the server computer to perform an operation of permitting, based on said interest expression, transmission to the client of

now interesting entities, who were previously uninteresting, based on updated information relating to said previously uninteresting other entities.

66. (Amended) The software program of [any of Claims 58 or 59] Claim 58, further providing instructions to the one or more processors of the server computer to perform an operation of permitting, based on said interest expression, filtering of now uninteresting entities, who were previously interesting, based on updated information relating to said previously interesting other entities.

At page 4:

[Fig. 4 illustrates] Figs. 4a-4b illustrate in block form a further method relating to a server, peer-to-peer, nodal client or hybrid network software program according to a preferred embodiment.

At page 13, paragraph 1:

The server balances the user's interests in generating the interest expression with network and/or the available bandwidth to the user and/or on system traffic, and also preferably on an understanding of what a desired amount of information may be for the user, given a user's limited ability to deal with information or other users in a limited amount of time. Thus, if the user has available a smaller bandwidth, then the user's interest expression is more limited. Likewise, if system traffic is high, then the user's interest expression will be more limited, as well. A subject user may also express a desired size of the interest expression, such as how much information or how many other users the subject user is

interested in, and some weight may be accorded this input of the subject user. The subject user may indicate groups of entities that may be interest, wherein the server would check to see if those entities in fact match the interest expression of the user. This is described in more detail at [Fig. 4] Figs. 4a-4b.

At page 16, paragraph 3:

[Fig. 4 illustrates] Figs. 4a-4b illustrate in block form a further method relating to a server, peer-to-peer, nodal client, one-to-many multicast or hybrid network software program according to a preferred embodiment. At operation O51, information relating to an entity "A" is read which may be related to the subject user discussed above with respect to Fig. 3. Then, at operation O52, it is determined which other zones entity A has indicated an interest in or which have been otherwise flagged as being potentially or actually interesting to entity A. Entity A may be interested in one or more zones.